

REMARKS

I. Interview Summary

Applicant expresses appreciation and thanks to the Examiner for the interview of April 15, 2004, during which the Examiner and Applicant discussed the newly cited Japanese publication, JP 2001-17211. The Examiner stressed the thorough nature of his search and concluded that he could not find additional, allowable subject matter other than that which he has already found.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-13 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have been so amended.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(a). In the interests of prosecution efficiency, those claims have been cancelled.

IV. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a). In the interests of prosecution efficiency, those claims have been cancelled.

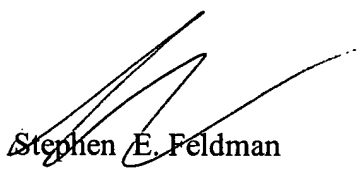
V. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is presently in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an action to that end.

A check in the amount of \$210.00 is enclosed for a two-month extension.

Please charge any pertinent fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully Submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to : Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on :

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